

REMARKS

This is a response to the Office Action of April 9, 2003. Applicant acknowledges that the Office has renumbered claim 10 as filed, depending on claim 9, as claim 9 depending on claim 8, since no claim 9 was originally filed.

Each of the pending claims 1-9 has been amended to improve clarity.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over U.S. patent 6,002,671 to Kahkoska et al. and U.S. patent 6,314,531 to Kram. Claim 4 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Kahkoska et al. in view of Kram and in further view of U.S. patent 6,530,078 to Shmid et al. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections.

Kahkoska relates to a test instrument for ADSL, where a remote test instrument/modem in a central office communicates with a test instrument/modem at a customer's premises. A client PC 14 communicates with the local modem at the customer's premises (Figure 1, column 4, lines 4-6). The central office modem can test multiple ADSL circuits by communicating with multiple customer site modems via switch or router (col. 2, lines 40-50). Accordingly, Kahkoska is not concerned at all with simulating traffic of multiple virtual clients. Instead, each real client communicates with the central office modem. Other clients and servers in the customer premises may be connected to the modem via switches and hubs (column 4, lines 7-10). However, these are all real clients, not simulated clients. Regarding the Examiner's assertion that Kahkoska does not expressly disclose multiple virtual clients, Applicants believe that Kahkoska provides no disclosure or suggestion whatsoever of a technique for simulating the traffic of multiple virtual clients.

Kram relates to using emulation hosts to emulate network latency, packet corruption, packet shuffling, packet loss and network congestion (abstract). The emulation hosts E1, E2 and E3 in Fig. 3 of Kram are positioned between subnet switches to introduce latency and other faults in a controlled and repeatable manner (column 6, lines 9-26). Each emulation host may be a workstation 103 (Fig. 2) to which messages are redirected from other workstations 101, 105 (column 4, line 62 to column 5, line 7). However, there is no disclosure or suggestion of simulating the traffic of multiple virtual clients, e.g., for the purpose of simulating a high load of network traffic, such as by using a split bridge as claimed. In particular, Kram does not disclose or suggest virtualizing client addresses. Kram discusses altering medium control access (MAC) address. For example, a MAC address table 201 at the workstation 101 is changed so that its packets are redirected from workstation 105 to the emulation host workstation 103. The MAC address table 203 at the workstation 103 is set so that its packets are sent to the emulation host workstation 105 after a delay (column 4, line 62 to column 5, line 12, Figure 3). Thus, Kram is only substituting one MAC address in place of another. Kram is not simulating the traffic of multiple virtual clients.

Furthermore, there is no motivation to combine Kahkoska and Kram since Kahkoska is concerned with measuring the actual performance of an ADSL circuit, e.g., the upstream and downstream throughput (abstract), while Kram is concerned with simulating network faults to see how distributed software will react. In fact, Kram specifically teaches away from using an unaltered real test network (column 1, lines 2-34).

Accordingly, claim 1 and its dependent claims 2 and 3 are believed to be clearly allowable over the prior art.

Regarding claims 3 and Schmid et al., there is no discussion of a frame generator coupled to a split bridge device via an Open System Adapter connection as claimed.

Regarding claim 4, the switches and subnet switches of Fig. 3 of Kram are not split bridges as claimed by Applicant. See Applicant's specification, e.g., page 23, lines 4-18. Furthermore, there is no disclosure or suggestion in the prior art of a simulator including a primary split bridge for passing a received broadcast message, without delay, to a respective server, and a secondary split bridge for passing the received broadcast message, with a predetermined delay, to a respective server, wherein subsequent messages are sent only to the primary split bridge, and the servers are employed for load balancing.

Regarding claim 5, the prior art fails to disclose or suggest a method for inserting simulated network frames onto a physical medium for delivery to a system under test including connecting a split bridge with a network interface card having a unique identifier to a network, receiving network frames from a frame generator coupled to the split bridge, configuring routing information in the split bridge to include identifiers associated to the network frames, where the identifiers emulate identifiers of plurality of client workstations, and forwarding received simulated network frames onto the network via the network interface card. The Examiner has not indicated how the prior art meets these limitations. Accordingly, claims 5 and 6 are believed to be clearly allowable over the prior art. Regarding claim 6, the prior art fails to disclose or suggest unique frame identifiers representing a plurality of client workstations that have been emulated.

Regarding claim 7, column 3, lines 15-25 of Kahkoska refer to measuring the time lag associated with data as it travels through a LAN. However, this is quite non-analogous to a

primary split bridge transmitting a client request immediately to a first server, and a secondary split bridge transmitting the client request after a predetermined amount of time to a second server.

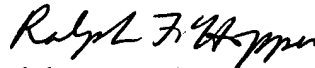
Claims 8 and 9 are believed to be patentable for the reasons discussed in connection with claims 5 and 6, respectively.

Withdrawal of the rejections is therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks herein, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance be issued.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with the Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



Ralph F. Hoppin
Registration No. 38,494

SCULLY, SCOTT, MURPHY & PRESSER
400 Garden City Plaza
Garden City, New York 11530
(516) 742-4343
RH:rl